



Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish;
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ASTRAGALUS SCAPHOIDES **BITTERROOT MILKVETCH**

Bitterroot Milkvech is a perennial with several erect stems arising 20-60 cm high from a branched rootcrown. The pinnately compound leaves are 10-25 cm long with 15-21 narrowly elliptic leaflets. Foliage is glabrous to sparsely hairy. Inflorescences are borne in the axils of upper leaves and have 15-30 spreading, crowded flowers that become more remote as the plant matures. The yellowish-white flowers are ca. 20 mm long with a reflexed upper petal and a blackish-hairy calyx that is 8-10 mm long. The glabrous, green to reddish oblong pods are 15-20 mm long and 2-chambered in cross-section. Each pod is borne on a stalk nearly as long as the pod that spreads out and then arches up, holding the pod nearly erect. Flowering in late May-early June, mature fruit in July.

Distinguished by the long stalks that arch out and up, holding the pods like a candelabra, and pods that are 4-6 mm wide, otherwise resembling *ASTRAGALUS ATROPUBESCENS* and *A. TERMINALIS*.